

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 16 of 1881.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th April 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	3rd April 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	8th ditto.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	4th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....
8	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....
9	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	5th ditto.
10	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
11	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwān	296	12th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	8th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	6th ditto.
15	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	9th ditto.
16	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	8th ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
18	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	4th ditto.
19	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....
20	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
21	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	
22	"Sādhāranī"	Chinsurah	500	10th ditto.
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	4th ditto.
24	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	11th ditto.
25	"Sulabha Samāchar"	Calcutta	4,000	9th ditto.
26	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
27	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	8th to 12th April 1881.
29	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	11th to 14th ditto.
30	"Samāchar Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	11th to 14th ditto.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	12th to 14th ditto.
32	"Prabhātī"	Ditto	.....	6th, 11th and 14th April 1881.
33	"Samāchar Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	9th April 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	31st March 1881.
36	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	7th April 1881.
37	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	4th ditto.
38	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	9th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	8th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
41	"Assam Vilāsinī"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

Sahachar,
April 4th, 1881.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar* of the 4th April:—If one were to observe the state of things in this country—in the smallest sub-division, as well as in the whole Empire—he would at once perceive the evil which has accrued from the demoralization of the rulers. There is no representative Government in this country, nor is public opinion sufficiently strong to inspire the authorities with a fear thereof. The weal and woe of the people depends on the heart and intellect of their rulers, and what evils may and often do not result when these are perverted? Anglo-Indians would find themselves quite unable to do any useful work in their native country, if they retained the notions and habits they contracted in India. The introduction of representative government in India would benefit the people and the rulers alike. If that contingency ever came to pass, the latter would be saved from the demoralization which the exercise of arbitrary and almost irresponsible power always brings about. What is required is the rulers should be prepared to hear unpalatable truths, and give up a repressive system of administration. Statesmanship need not be divorced from morality.

Navavibhakar,
April 4th, 1881.

2. Referring to the terms of the deed of transfer of Mysore to its Prince, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 4th April, remarks that the augmentation of the amount of tribute payable by that State to the British Government by ten lakhs is not just or reasonable. Government has bound the Prince by a hard-and-fast engagement. The question is—Was so much cautiousness necessary?

Ananda Bazar Patrika,
April 4th, 1881.

3. We make the following extract from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 4th April:—Would to God the people of this country soon learnt to sacrifice all moral scruples and self-interest for the purpose of maintaining the prestige of their race as Englishmen! There are not a few Englishmen, who, if any of their countrymen got into a scrape, would at all hesitate falsely to swear by the Bible to save him; few English Judges who would hesitate for the same purpose to throw justice overboard; or few English jurors who would feel the least scruple in violating their oaths in order that they might gain the same object. Natives, on the contrary, feel a pride in bringing their countrymen to trouble and punishment. The times are such that godliness must give way before wickedness. The English are acting in accordance with the spirit of the times, and are becoming great, while the people of India are declining in prosperity owing to their neglect of it.

Bharat Mihir,
April 5th, 1881.

4. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 5th April, thus describes the results of the Afghan War:—Both parties have alternately obtained victories and sustained reverses. Both have incurred enormous loss of blood and treasure. Has the fear of Russia—the cause of this war—been removed? Has the prestige of the Government of India, for the maintenance of which the war was declared, really been promoted? What has Government gained by its prosecution? It might be said that the gain (?) in the first place has been that of 23 crores of rupees. Then must be taken into account the loss of thousands of heroes, and the untimely end of thousands of young men. The race of camels and that of kine in the North-Western Provinces have been extirpated. Shere Ali died in exile, Cavagnari was murdered, Yakub made prisoner, and Burrows disgraced. Abdur Rahman, the *protegé* of Russia, has been made Amir. As a result of the war the finances have reached a miserable condition, and the license-tax has been imposed upon the people. General Roberts has been lionized, and empty titles of

distinction have been lavished upon a number of military officers. There is no Resident in Cabul. Candahar has been surrendered to the Amir, and the British army returns to India just as they had left it. The only advantages (?) reaped are disgrace, and the loss of blood and treasure. The contribution made by England towards the expenses of the war is very small.

5. The same paper dwells on the illiberal treatment which Native Princes very frequently receive at the hands of the British Government. The conduct of the paramount power towards Sir Salar Jung in the matter of the Berars, the salt negotiations with the Rajput Chiefs, and its action respecting the Sambhar Lake, are well known to the public. The rendition of Mysore has just taken place. The measure, indeed, shows the generosity of the British Government, for if it had decided upon annexing the State, the Rajah would have been utterly powerless to protest. The terms, however, which have been exacted from him are so stringent and so advantageous to Government that this consideration considerably reduces the value of the act.

BHARAT MIHIR,
April 6th, 1881.

6. Adverting to the contribution made by England towards the cost of the Afghan War, the *Sádháraní*, of the 10th April, makes the following observations:—

SADHARANI,
April 10th, 1881.

The costs of the Afghan War. England has agreed to bear a portion of the Afghan War expenses. Mr. Gladstone is really to be congratulated on his courage. The average Englishman loves only two things in this world; namely (1) war, and (2) money. He gets intoxicated at the mention of war, and loses his common sense. But there is difficulty when the question of cost comes up. The Englishman can bear a wound inflicted upon his body, but there is a shivering of his whole physical system if you touch his pocket. It therefore required not a little courage in an English Minister to bring the war to an end, as well as to loosen the purse-strings of the nation. We thank Mr. Gladstone a thousand times for the courage he has displayed for our benefit. We cannot, however, help making one remark in this connection. Not one *courie* of the sum expended on the Afghan War ought to be levied from the people of India. According to a standing rule which governs such cases, India is not justly liable for this charge. It was a war waged beyond her frontiers, and not for defensive purposes. Shere Ali did not entertain any aggressive designs upon the Queen's Indian possessions, nor was the Afghan War rendered necessary by the exigencies of the political situation. It is now well known that Lord Lytton deliberately brought about this difficulty in Afghanistan, that he might have an opportunity of testing the strength of Russia. There is another consideration. India has not gained anything by this war, which was undertaken for the purpose of enhancing the prestige of England and of inspiring Russia with a dread of her power. India, however, is now required to pay the greater portion of the war charges. This will ruin her. Once before, in the days of the Company, she paid the costs of the first Afghan War, but then she was somewhat better off. Since that time, the public debt has gone on increasing, and the home charges also have enormously increased. Then, again, India does not yet know the precise extent of her liabilities on account of the war. The accounts, on Government's own showing, are wrong, and it is not to be wondered at if the amount which is now believed to be due swells to 40 crores after a few days. Under these circumstances, the English Exchequer must contribute more towards the expenses of the war than it has yet done. The English budget shows a surplus for the next year, and Government has proposed to reduce the income-tax by a penny. This will doubtless be exceedingly gratifying to the English tax-payer, but the people of India cannot share his delight. The English

are a very wealthy people, and can well afford to lend India their surplus revenue without interest. This suggestion, if acted upon, will not touch the pockets of the English people, whilst it will immensely benefit the natives of India.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SANACHAR,
April 4th, 1881.

7. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th April, remarks that Major Baring's first budget is not satisfactory. Considering that

The Budget.

it has been issued as a Minute of the Government of India, it was not proper on his part to use any expressions which might go to show that the Finance Minister held any views distinct from those of the Government. After the Mutiny, Mr. Wilson indeed did something similar to it, but the times were peculiar and required exceptional measures. It is not clear why the five millions contributed by England as her share of the war expenses should be treated as ordinary revenue. This is doubtless opposed to all sound book-keeping. The people firmly believe that the present Ministry and the present Viceroy will never follow the dishonest policy of Lord Lytton's Government; and yet the question arises—Why is there at all any talk about a surplus, when in fact there is no surplus? One can understand clearly enough why Sir John Strachey framed budgets which would only delude a child. He found it necessary to benefit the salt manufacturers of Cheshire and the weavers of Lancashire, and above all to affect prosperity in order that he might help the Tory Ministry. It is impossible that Major Baring could have any one of these objects in view. Why has he then framed such a wrong budget? The opium revenue has been purposely under-estimated for the purpose, as has been stated by Major Baring, of enabling the Government of India to comply with the instructions which may be given by the Secretary of State, regarding the remission of the cotton duties. That functionary has already given hopes to Manchester of a repeal of these duties. Judging by the returns of the last few years, the estimated revenue from opium ought to have been put at a higher figure, but this has not been done in order that Government on finding the actual revenue from this source to exceed the estimates—a result which is even now foreseen—may have a ground for proposing a remission of the cotton duties. Now any such proposal would be extremely unjust, so long as the license-tax remained in force. The people would keenly feel the injustice. Referring to the probable deficit, the writer remarks that the only way out of the difficulty will be found in a reduction of public expenditure. Major Baring's budget, however, is silent on this point. He has not shown any proof of his skill as a financier, and his first budget has been rather disappointing.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
April 4th, 1881.

8. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 4th April, in a long article, points out

The East Indian Railway Company trading in coal.

the injurious consequences to native as well as European traders in coal, which have resulted from the competition of the East Indian Railway Company. The Company is now carrying on a trade in coal on an extensive scale. This, however, is clearly opposed to the terms of the contract made by the Company with Government in 1879. There is again another consideration: the East Indian Railway has now become the property of Government, and its action in thus competing with coal merchants must always be regarded as that of Government. This is certainly not the way to encourage native industry. By passing the Factories Act Government has already thrown cold water upon native enterprise, and if in addition to this it supports the action of the East Indian Railway in

carrying on a coal trade, there will be great hardship caused to the people of India.

9. The same paper makes some observations on the address recently delivered by Sir D. Stewart on the occasion of the distribution of prizes to the students of a certain Calcutta institution. The Editor refutes the statement made by the Commander-in-Chief in the course of his speech that vernacular newspapers constantly blame Government for not conferring upon educated natives appointments to the public service. What native journals do blame Government for is, not that it excludes competent natives from the public service, or that because it has bestowed upon them a high education it is bound to provide for them and does not, but that it appoints Europeans to superior posts when there are so many competent natives seeking employment. Sir D. Stewart was entirely silent on this point, and only showed the unreasonableness of a complaint which was purely imaginary. The number of educated natives is gradually on the increase, but the means of earning livelihood have not increased in proportion. It behoves Government to assist educated natives in this matter. By its patronage of native manufactures and industries it can do much in this direction, while reducing public expenditure. A potent cause of discontent might be removed by making it a rule that a competent native alone would be eligible for appointment to any post which might fall vacant. In the course of his address to the students, the Commander-in-Chief paid a well-deserved complement to native officers in the British Army, and remarked that Bengalis, if they so pleased, might enter the military service. The Editor asks if this is true. The public have an impression that Bengalis are not allowed admission into the Army; at least they do not practically find it, even if there be no formal order to this effect. It behoves Sir Donald Stewart to publish the rules and conditions under which natives of Bengal might be admitted into the Army.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
April 4th, 1881.

10. Referring to the provisions of the New Calcutta Municipal Act regarding the pensions of police officers, and the extension of the water-supply to the Suburbs, the same paper remarks that the sections relating to the first-named subject have been inserted at the instance of the Government of India. The Commissioners have stoutly opposed them. The Lieutenant-Governor also was not in favour of their inclusion in the Bill. If they must be retained, it should at least be enacted that the amount for which the Municipality would be liable for the pensions of the police officers should be proportionate to the amount which is now paid from the Municipal Funds towards their salaries. As regards the question of supplying the inhabitants of the Suburbs with filtered water, there can be no difference of opinion as to the necessity of the proposal. But the provisions as to the rates payable by them, and the powers of the Government in this connection, will, if carried out, entail great hardship and injustice to the rate-payers of Calcutta. If the inhabitants of the Suburbs are really unable to pay the taxes which may be reasonably imposed upon them, it behoves Government to bear a portion of the charges.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

11. The finances of the Government of India cannot yet be said to have attained a flourishing condition. The public debt has reached an enormous figure. There is always again the possibility of unforeseen difficulties arising, which may require a large expenditure of money to get out of. The finances of an Empire can never be said to be in a sound condition when, on the appearance of any sudden difficulty, Government has either to borrow or to put on a fresh tax on the people who are already groaning under taxation. How can Government secure a surplus of revenue over expenditure?

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

It must either augment its income or reduce its expenditure. Now, it is not easy to do the first. The second, therefore, is the only alternative. It is gratifying to notice that the attention of Major Baring has been directed to this matter. He has expressed a wish to reduce the expenditure on public works, and encourage the investment in such works of foreign capital. Considerations of retrenchment, however, should not entirely dissuade Government from undertaking works of public utility. That the expenditure on such works is often extravagant is due greatly to the hasty and inconsiderate manner in which they are embarked upon, and the dishonesty and ignorance of the contractors and engineers charged with their construction. A reduction of expenditure is not the proper means of checking the extravagance which is due to the faults of the officers. Government should seek to remove the causes which interfere with the usefulness of public works. A reduced allotment on such works, with the causes referred to above in existence, would only result in inferiority of execution; for dishonesty must continue to do its work, no matter how small the amount might be. Government has not therefore done well in reducing the allotment on public works. If it is really resolved to practise economy, it should direct its attention to the expenditure on the civil administration and the Army charges. A more extensive employment of natives in civil work, the augmentation of the Native Army, and the reduction in the number of European troops, are suggested for the consideration of the Indian Government.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 4th, 1881.

12. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 4th April, contains a long article on the Factories Act. The substance of the observations made by the Editor is as follows:—

The passing of this measure is due to the same consideration which led to the remission of the cotton duties. It will benefit the merchants of Manchester and the Liberal Ministry, whilst it will seriously injure the interests of those who have established cloth-mills in this country. It will restrict labour in factories, and thus their outturn. Lord Shaftesbury's generosity towards the overworked operatives in Indian mills is really extraordinary. While there have been, and are, so many true objects of compassion in India, it is really wonderful how the condition of the labourers in the factories—a condition which has never evoked any sympathy from either their friends, relatives, or rulers—succeeded from this distance in exciting his Lordship's pity.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

13. The same paper contains a sarcastic article on the recent despatch of the Secretary of State regarding the desirability of appointing natives to high offices under Government. The British Government has repeatedly acknowledged the necessity and justice of making such appointments, but has not yet seen its way to carry out its intentions in this respect, owing to the paramount necessity of first providing for the relatives, dependents, and favourites of its European officials. The true reason, however, of the delay in fulfilling its promises is apparently to be found in the consideration that it is better to be in expectancy than to have one's expectation realized. The delay in repealing the Vernacular Press Act and the Arms Act can also be accounted for on this theory.

14. The *Dhárát Mihir*, of the 5th April, is at the outset gratified at finding that Major Baring's budget is not such a lengthy document as was issued every year by Sir John Strachey. Nor does it contain so many intricacies of accounts, difficult problems and theories of finance, or so much play of imagination as used to characterize the budgets of the late Finance Minister. Major Baring has in a few plain words endeavoured to explain the financial position of Government. He has not sought to

DHARAT MIHIR,
April 5th, 1881.

The Budget.

conceal it. However bad may be its condition, Indian finance has not yet reached the stage when remedial measures are quite ineffectual. The public have confidence in Major Baring's ability to deal with the subject. Although not agreeing in all the views expressed by the Finance Minister, the Editor is nevertheless glad to notice that he is making arduous efforts to restore the finances to their former normal condition. As regards the abolition of the Famine Fund, and the continuance of the license-tax, the Editor trusts that Major Baring will assure the public that the proceeds of the license-tax being credited to the head of ordinary revenue charges on account of famine relief will also be met from ordinary revenue. The necessity of extending railway communication is then dwelt upon, and it is suggested that, instead of annually contributing 75 lakhs of rupees, which is but a small sum, towards the diminution of the public debt, Government would do well to apply the amount to the construction of railways.

15. The same paper firmly believes that the proposal to establish savings banks in the post offices, if carried out, will be completely successful and really beneficial to the poor Indian peasantry. To secure this result, however, it would be necessary to convince them that the establishment of these savings banks had no connection with any tax, and further to exclude the wealthier classes from the benefit thereof.

Savings Banks in the Post Offices.

BHARAT MIHIE,
April 5th, 1881.

16. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 8th April, hears with concern that the Commissioner of Chittagong has recommended Sub-Deputy Collector Girish Baboo for the post of Deputy Collector in connection with settlement work in that locality. The Editor would be glad to hear of the Baboo's promotion, but considering the importance and difficulty of the work, and his qualifications which are but indifferent, it is to be hoped Government will think twice before acting upon the recommendation of the Commissioner.

Sub-Deputy Collector in charge of settlement work in Chittagong.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
April 8th, 1881.

17. The *Sádháraní*, of the 9th April, directs the attention of Government to the necessity of granting an increase of pay to the amlah employed in the sub-registry offices in the mofussil. So long as this is not done, executants of documents will continue to be subjected to illegal payments. In most of these offices, the sub-registrars are men on low salaries and of indifferent attainments, and whenever a document is presented for registration their practice is to refer it to the amlah for an expression of their opinion as to its admissibility. Now the amlah never give their opinion before they have levied their customary fee from the parties. The whole subject requires attention.

Sub-registry offices in the Mofussil.

SADHARANI,
April 9th, 1881.

18. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 11th April, suggests that the proposed railway from Dum-Dum to Baraset should be extended at least to Banagram to make it serve any useful purpose.

A railway to Banagram.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 11th, 1881.

19. The same paper contains a lengthy retrospect of the Bengali year 1287, which has just ended. The Editor strongly blames the conduct and administration of Lord Lytton as destitute of sympathy for the people of India and as subservient to the English Ministry. Of Lord Ripon, it is observed that he is a conscientious man, but has already become a tool in the hands of his counsellors. The annual emigration of officials to the hills is condemned.

A retrospect of 1287 B. S.

SOM PRAKASH.

20. The same paper in another article dwells on the injurious character of the Vernacular Press Act, and the utter absence of justification for continuing it in force. Its enactment was solely due to the impatience of just

The Vernacular Press Act.

SOM PRAKASH.

and legitimate criticism contained in native journals on the part of high-handed Anglo-Indian officials. The present Liberal Ministry cannot too soon repeal this obnoxious piece of legislation.

EDUCATION.

SAHACHAR,
April 4th, 1881.

21. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th April, notices, with gratification, that Government has decided upon continuing the Calcutta School Book Society on certain conditions.

It is to be regretted, however, that this once very useful institution is now reduced to a deplorable state. It is not able to supply the mofussil with books as regularly as before, or to obtain indents of English books from England. In consequence of this, the pupils in the interior of the country have not from the year that has ended obtained cheap school-books. This has greatly hindered study, and the work of instruction. After stating the conditions on which Government has agreed to grant a reduced monthly subsidy to the Society, the Editor proceeds to remark that this institution had for a long time past supplied books at a cheap rate. It was therefore ruled that all purchases of books for prizes and for the use of the libraries attached to Government schools should be made from the Society, which received aid from Government in various ways, in order that it might be able to sell books at a low price. Mr. Brown, however, the present Secretary to the Society, has now for some months past been permitted to supply books for those purposes from his own firm—a work which he has not been able to do satisfactorily. Government is therefore asked to again entrust the business to the Society. The writer, in conclusion, exhorts the members of the Managing Committee to bestir themselves in making retrenchments. The Society cannot in the present state of its finances afford to pay such high salaries as are enjoyed by Mr. Brown and his Eurasian Assistant. Besides, the appointment of Mr. Brown, himself a bookseller, has been an exceedingly unwise step. The services of both should be dispensed with, and a retired Deputy Collector or Educational Officer should be selected to fill the post of Secretary. A competent person could be easily found for a salary of Rs. 300 a month. The Secretary should be required to examine the proof-sheets of all the works published by the Society whenever any such was passing through a new edition. This work was done before by Mr. Sykes, and by others after him. It was only since the time of Mr. Andrews that the expenses of the Society have increased in this connection. What is wanted is that the Secretary should be a man of ability and independent views.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
April 4th, 1881.

22. Writing on the same subject, the *Navaribhakar*, of the 4th April, remarks, with gratification, that the scandals connected with the Calcutta School Book Society may now be said to have come to an end. The question that has to be asked is—Will the arrangement made by the Lieutenant-Governor continue to enrich Mr. Brown, the bookseller? We have said before, and do still repeat, that the Society will never prosper so long as Mr. Brown remains in any way connected with it.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 16th April 1881.